

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND OTHER

U. S. ITEMS.

1. SUMMARY: FIRST PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE FOCUSES ON U. S.- SOVIET ASPECTS AND AVOIDS CRITICAL ASIDES EXCEPT REGARDING MIDDLE EAST. ARTICLE ON U. S.- SOVIET TRADE PLAYS UP BREZHNEV'S ROLE AND PLAYS DOWN DIFFICULTIES. WATERGATE IS IGNORED. END SUMMARY.

2. MAY 5 PRESS CARRIES TASS SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE TO CONGRESS, FOCUSING MAINLY ON SECTION DEVOTED TO U. S.- SOVIET RELATIONS: CHARACTERIZATION OF MAY SUMMIT AS "DECISIVE TURNING POINT"; CALL FOR ELIMINATION OF TRADE DISCRIMINATION; "HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE" OF SALT; AND NEED FOR "PATIENCE, HARD WORK AND PERSISTENCE" IN MOVING FROM "COEXISTENCE TO BROAD COOPERATION." SUMMARY ALSO CITES PASSAGES ON EUROPE AND NOTES THAT "NEW CHAPTER" IS SAID TO HAVE OPENED IN U. S.- CHINESE RELATIONS. TWO PARAGRAPHS ON INDOCHINA ARE NEUTRAL IN TONE, CITING REMARKS THAT U. S. DOES NOT EXCLUDE CONTINUATION OF MILITARY ACTION AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN CAMBODIA BUT WILL NOT INTRODUCE AMERICAN GROUND FORCES. ONLY CRITICAL TREATMENT IS PARA-
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GRAPH ON MIDDLE EAST WHICH COMMENTS THAT MESSAGE MAKES NO CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR RELAXING TENSIONS IN AREA, " ONE OF MAIN REASONS FOR WHICH IS UNINTERRUPTED U. S. SUPPORT FOR AGGRESSIVE POLICY OF ISRAEL."

3. HALF- PAGE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE MAY 4 DEVOTED TO U. S- SOVIET ECONOMIC TIES IS NOTEWORTHY FOR ITS ROSY OUTLOOK AND FOR THE CLEAR WAY IT LINKS THE APRIL PENUM, BREZHNEV' S PERSONAL ROLE IN FOREIGN POLICY,, AND U. S.- SOVIET RELATIONS.

A. SIGNED BY CHIEF AMERICANOLOGIST ARBATOV, DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER ALKHIMOV, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE DIRECTOR INOZEMTSEV, THE ARTICLE HEAPS ORNATE PRAISE ON BREZHNEV. EXPANDING ON APRIL PLENUM' S ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF HIS " GREAT PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION" TO SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY, THE AUTHORS CITE HIS " ENORMOUS WORK, FIRMNESS AND PRINCIPLEDNESS, COMBINED WITH DELICATE UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THE SPECIFICS OF SITUATION, A REMARKABLE ABILITY TO ANALYZE COMPLEX POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS."

B. THE THREE AUTHORS, WHO ATTENDED RECENT CONFERENCE IN U. S. ORGANIZED BY NAM, GIVE USUAL EXPLANATION OF U. S. MOTIVES FOR CHANGING ATTITUDE ON TRADE WITH USSR: GROWTH OF POWER OF SOCIALIST WORLD, FAILURE OF EMBARGO POLICY (DUE TO SOVIET ABILITY TO PRODUCE AND TO U. S. ALLIES' DECISIONS TO TRADE NORMALLY), AND U. S. TRADE, MONETARY AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. THEY ASSURE READERS THAT REASONS FOR U. S. CHANGE REFLECT " OBJECTIVE FACTORS" VALID OVER PORTRACTED TIME (THUS IMPLYING THERE IS NO DANGER OF SUDDEN REVERSAL. AND IN A RUNDOWN OF PRACTICAL STEPS TAKEN TO NORMALIZE ECONOMIC TIES THEY DWELL ON MFN AS AN ELEMENT OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT WITHOUT GIVING ANY INDICATION THAT IT HAS YET TO BE LEGISLATED BY CONGRESS, MUCH LESS THAT IT FACES OPPOSITION.

4. PRAVDA MAY 5 CARRIES ONE- SENTENCE TASS REPORT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD ACCEPTED RESIGNATION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL KLIENDIEST AND NAMED RICHARDSON TO REPLACE HIM. NO OTHER DETAILS ARE GIVEN. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORTAGE ON WATERGATE- RELATED MATTERS SINCE THE PRESIDENT' S STATEMENT ON WATERGATE (WHICH ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED HERE). COVERAGE OF WATERGATE HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY NON- EXISTENT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

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